

## ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

An apparatus and a method for banding fence posts are disclosed. The apparatus includes a pair of vertically disposed conveyor systems with U-shaped cradles for delivering the fence posts in a horizontal disposition to a pair of stationary strapping machines. Opposite the strapping machines are horizontally movable guide elements for directing banding material dispensed from the strapping machines around the fence posts. The strapping machines tighten the bands and connect the bands to themselves. The vertically disposed conveyor systems then move the banded fence posts to an exiting horizontally disposed conveyor system. The method includes providing the bands, the strapping machines, the guide elements and the vertical conveyor systems, maintaining the strapping machines in a stationary position, moving the fence posts to the strapping machines, moving the guide elements to straddle the fence posts, dispensing the bands, retrieving the bands, moving the guide elements away from the strapping machines and depositing the banded fence posts on a horizontal conveyor system to move the banded fence posts to a stacking station.

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